

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are pending. By the present amendment, Claims 1 and 6 are amended, and Claim 7 is added. Support for the present amendment can be found in the originally filed specification, for example, at page 8, lines 13-21, at page 15, line 10 to page 18, line 13, and in Figures 4-15. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fleck et al. (U.S. Patent 6,977,811, hereinafter “Fleck”) in view of Dow et al. (U.S. Patent 7,038,717, hereinafter “Dow”), and further in view of Nakae et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0166829, hereinafter “Nakae”); Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fleck, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Harada et al. (U.S. Patent 6,072,476, hereinafter “Harada”); and Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Fleck, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Shiono et al. (U.S. Publication 2005/0188001, hereinafter “Shiono”).

Turning now to the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as discussed below.

Amended Claim 1 recites:

An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a display;

a keyboard including alphanumeric keys each allocated to one character in a first input mode;

at least one cursor key for selecting a word generated by a predetermined program;

a common button functioning as both an activation button for activating the predetermined program and a determination button for determining the word selected from candidates appearing on the display according to a number of

times a selected alphanumeric key is pressed in a second input mode while the predetermined program is activated,

wherein the common button and the cursor key are provided on a first side of the apparatus between the display and the keyboard, and

wherein at least one of the alphanumeric keys of the keyboard is allocated to more than one character in the second input mode and is provided on a second side of the apparatus opposite to the first side.

As recited in amended Claim 1, the common button is allocated to activate a predetermined program and to determine a word selected from candidates. Additionally, a normal input mode changes to a particular input mode when the predetermined program is activated. In the particular input mode, a character allocated to one of the alphanumeric keys appears on a display according to the number of the key which is pressed. Furthermore, the keys used in the particular input mode are located on one side (for example, the left side in Figure 4) of the main unit, and the common button is located on the opposite side (for example, the right side in Figure 4) of the main unit. Therefore, it would be easy for a user to input words while grabbing the main unit with both hands. It is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose or suggest every feature recited above.

Fleck describes a keyboard 110 including a plurality of hot keys (i.e., e-mail, calendar, web, etc.) and a mouse button 300, a right arrow button 302, a left arrow button 304, an up arrow button 306, and a down arrow button 308.¹ The outstanding Office Action, in section 2 on page 2, takes the position that the hot keys described in Fleck equate to the claimed “common button.” Additionally, the outstanding Office Action takes the position that the mouse button 300, right arrow button 302, left arrow button 304, up arrow button 306, and down arrow button 308, equate to the claimed “at least one cursor key.” The Office Action, in section 2 on page 3, does concede that Fleck “fails to teach the common button

¹ See Fleck, at column 5, lines 13-35 and column 6, lines 8-27.

having the secondary function for determining an item selected from options appearing on the display while the predetermined program is activated as well as a cursor key selecting an item from the options appearing on the display.”

However, it is respectfully submitted that Fleck does not disclose or suggest “at least one cursor key for selecting a word generated by a predetermined program” or “a common button functioning as both an activation button for activating the predetermined program and a determination button for determining the word selected from candidates appearing on the display according to a number of times a selected alphanumeric key is pressed in a second input mode while the predetermined program is activated,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Instead, Fleck describes that the hot keys launch or activate an application, but Fleck does not describe that these keys select a word generated by a predetermined program. Additionally, as discussed above, the outstanding Office Action concedes that Fleck does not teach that a common button is used as a determining button as recited in Claim 1.

Dow describes an appliance 22 including user operation buttons 26, 28, 32, 34, 36, 38.² Further, Dow describes that the navigation buttons 42 and 44 can be used to select and confirm a menu item such that an additional enter button is not required.³

However, it is respectfully submitted that Dow does not disclose or suggest “at least one cursor key for selecting a word generated by a predetermined program” or “a common button functioning as both an activation button for activating the predetermined program and a determination button for determining a word selected from candidates appearing on the display according to a number of times a selected alphanumeric key is pressed in a second input mode while the predetermined program is activated,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Instead, although Dow describes that navigation buttons 42 and 44 can be used to select a menu item, Dow does not describe that the menu item is a word generated by a

² See Dow, at lines 19-32.

³ See Dow, at column 9, lines 27-35.

predetermined program or that the word is selected from candidates appearing on a display according to a number of times a selected alphanumeric key is pressed in a second input mode while the predetermined program is activated. Thus, the navigation buttons 42 and 44 described in Dow are not the claimed “common button.”

Nakae describes a cell phone having a plurality of buttons. The outstanding Office Action, on pages 3 and 4, relied on Nakae as describing a ring of keys encircling the at least one cursory key. However, it is noted that this feature is no longer recited in Claim 1. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that Nakae does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Dow or Fleck.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose or suggest the “at least one cursor key” or the “common button,” as recited in amended Claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Fleck, Dow, and Nakae does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 1.

Additionally, as the combination of Fleck, Dow, and Nakae does not disclose or suggest the “at least one cursor key” or the “common button,” it is respectfully submitted that the combination does not disclose or suggest that “the common button and the cursor key are provided on a first side of the apparatus between the display and the keyboard, and ... at least one of the alphanumeric keys ... is provided on a second side of the apparatus opposite to the first side,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the outstanding Office Action fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of Claim 1, and all claims dependent thereon, as unpatentable over Fleck in view of Dow, and further in view of Nakae be withdrawn.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 4 as unpatentable over Fleck, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Harada, it is noted that Claim 4 is dependent on Claim 1, and thus is

believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Harada does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Fleck, Dow, and Nakae. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 4 is patentable over Fleck, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Harada.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 6 as unpatentable over Fleck, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Shiono, it is noted that Claim 6 is dependent on Claim 1, and thus is believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Shiono does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Fleck, Dow, and Nakae. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 6 is patentable over Fleck, Dow, and Nakae, and further in view of Shiono.

New Claim 7 finds support at least in Figure 4 and the corresponding description. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. Additionally, it is noted that Claim 7 is dependent on Claim 1. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 7 patentably defines over the cited references.

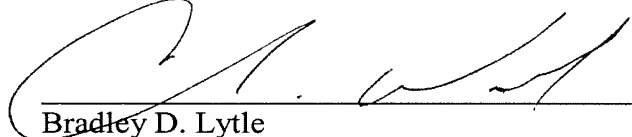
Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/762,480
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2007.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. D. Lytle', is written over a horizontal line.

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